

5-State Compensation Method Fiscal Information

Prepared for the Legislative Council

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This information is intended to assist the Legislative Council in considering any changes to the compensation method for legislators (see LC 9994) or future changes to the constituent services fund. Any change in the method of calculating and setting legislator compensation could not be effective until the 2021 Legislative Session.

5-State Compensation Survey Exercise

| State | Session Days (max) in biennium | Other selected compensation | Daily rate | Annual Rate ('18) | Approx. Pay in Biennium for Reg. Session(s) ('17-18) | Approx. Pay per Session Day in Biennium ('18) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Montana | 90 B | Const. services \$3,000 (U), H, R, | 90.64 | -- | 8,158 | 90.64 |
| Idaho | 160 (80A) | Const. services \$2,250 (U), H, R | -- | 17,358 | 34,375 | 214.84 |
| N. Dakota | 80 B | H | 177.00 | -- | 14,160 | 177.00 |
| S. Dakota | 80 (40A) | None | -- | 6,000 | 12,000 | 150.00 |
| Wyoming | 60 (40/20) | Const. services \$750/quarter (U) & two days salary out of session | 150.00 | -- | 9,000 | 150.00 |
| 5 State Avg | | | | | 15,538 | 156.50 |

Legend: B-biennial, A-annual, U- Unvouchered, H- Health Ins. R - Retirement

Sources:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/legislator-compensation-2018.aspx> - compensation

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/legislative-sessions.aspx> - sessions

<http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/state-legislative-websites-directory.aspx> - state legislature websites

Montana Salary Comparison

All state Executive Branch elected officials and the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court, are paid an amount equivalent to the five-state average salary for officials with similar titles in the surrounding states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho, including Montana in the average, 2-16-403 and 405, MCA. Legislators are the sole exception.

If Montana legislators were to be paid by the same method, it would require a 69% increase in pay (not including calculations for taxes, benefits, retirement, etc.) Wyoming and Idaho also pay a constituent services amount that is taxed and is not included in the daily rate amounts.

| Session Year | MT daily rate | Percentage of 5-state rate at 156.50/day ('10) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2017 - salary only | 90.64 | 58% |
| 2017 - w/const. services | 123.96 | 79.2% |
| 2019 - salary only | 92.46 | 59% |
| 2019 - w/const. services | 125.78 | 80% |

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